

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

NETWORK OF CONSTRUCTION  
and DEVELOPMENT, an Afghanistan  
joint venture company, d/b/a N-CDC,

Plaintiff,

BESSAMAIRE SALES, LLC, an Ohio limited liability company,

Defendant.

NO: CV-11-269-RMP

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT'S  
MOTION TO STRIKE AND MOTION  
TO DISMISS

This matter comes before the Court on a motion to dismiss, ECF No. 4, and

a motion to strike, ECF No. 15, by Defendant Bessamaire Sales International, LLC

(“Bessamaire”). Bessamaire seeks to dismiss a breach of contract action by

<sup>17</sup> Plaintiff Network of Construction and Development Companies (“N-CDC”) for

lack of personal jurisdiction and improper venue. Alternatively, Bessamaire

19 suggests that the case be transferred to the U.S. District Court for the Northern

District of Ohio. Further, Bessamaire seeks to strike statements made by N-CDC

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO STRIKE AND MOTION  
TO DISMISS ~ 1

1 pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 408. ECF No. 15. Both motions are without  
2 oral argument. ECF Nos. 4 & 15.

3 N-CDC is a joint venture company established in Afghanistan, with its  
4 headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan. ECF No. 1 at 2. Bessamaire is an Ohio  
5 Limited Liability Company.

6 **BACKGROUND**

7 N-CDC contracted with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to  
8 provide heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (“HVAC”) units in Afghanistan  
9 for housing facilities to be used by Afghan soldiers training with the United States  
10 military. ECF No. 8 at 4. On October 16, 2008, N-CDC terminated its contract  
11 with Bessamaire. ECF No. 8 at 6. At the time of termination, neither party  
12 fulfilled its contractual obligations. On July 21, 2011, N-CDC brought a breach of  
13 contract action against Bessamaire. ECF No. 1. Bessamaire seeks dismissal of the  
14 case based on lack of personal jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(2), or dismissal of the  
15 case based on improper venue under Rule 12(b)(3). Alternatively, Bessamaire  
16 seeks a change of venue under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a). ECF No. 4. Bessamaire also  
17 seeks to strike three statements made by N-CDC, contained in ECF Nos. 9, 10, and  
18 12, based on Federal Rule of Evidence 408. ECF No. 15.

**MOTION TO STRIKE**

As a preliminary matter, the Court addresses the motion to strike, ECF No.

15. Bessamaire asserts that certain statements made by N-CDC should be stricken pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 408. ECF No. 15 at 2. These disputed statements are:

(1) The portion of N-CDC's Response to Bessamaire's Motion to Dismiss or Transfer Action extending from page 9, line 12, to page 11, line 11 (ECF No. 9);

(2) Paragraph 4 of the Declaration of Amos R. Hunter in Opposition to Bessamaire's Motion to Dismiss Action or Transfer Action (ECF No. 10); and

(3) Paragraph 5 of Declaration of Najibullah Akrami in Opposition to Bessamaire's Motion to Dismiss Action or Transfer Action (ECF No. 12).

ECF No. 15 at 2. Bessamaire seeks to strike these statements on the basis that they each violate Federal Rule of Evidence 408, arguing that the statements were “made in compromise negotiations,” and thus are inadmissible. ECF No. 15 at 2; Fed. R. Evid. 408.

Rule 408 provides in relevant part: “evidence of: (1) furnishing or offering or promising to furnish — or accepting or offering or promising to accept — a valuable consideration in compromising or attempting to compromise the claim; and (2) conduct or statements made in compromise negotiations regarding the claim.” Fed. R. Evid. 408. The purpose of Rule 408 is to “protect the confidentiality of settlement negotiations.” *McCown v. City of Fontana*, 565 F.3d

1 1097, 1105 (9th Cir. 2009). The primary focus in determining admissibility of the  
2 statements is the underlying dispute, i.e., whether the statements were “made in  
3 pursuit of a compromise” and “offered to prove liability for, invalidity of, or  
4 amount of a claim that was disputed as to validity or amount.” Fed. R. Evid. 408;  
5 *see Rhoades v. Avon Products, Inc.*, 504 F.3d 1151, 1161 (9th Cir. 2007).

6 In the present case, the first disputed statement contains e-mails from N-  
7 CDC’s counsel, Amos Hunter, to Bessamaire executive, William Sullivan. ECF  
8 No. 9 at 9-11. The next disputed statement also includes settlement e-mails  
9 between Mr. Hunter, Plaintiff’s counsel, and Mr. Sullivan, a Bessamaire executive.  
10 ECF No. 10 at 2-3. The final disputed statement is from N-CDC’s Managing  
11 Director, Najibulla Akrami, allegedly referring to offers of settlement. ECF No. 12  
12 at 2-3.

13 Bessamaire argues that the statements are inadmissible because they “are  
14 simply a reprinting of emails [sic] that went back and forth between plaintiff’s  
15 counsel and Mr. Sullivan during those initial negotiations.” ECF No. 16 at 2.  
16 Those e-mails, Bessamaire contends, were efforts by N-CDC to reach a settlement  
17 with Bessamaire and to recount the content of voicemail messages left by Mr.  
18 Sullivan. ECF No. 9 at 9-11. Further, Bessamaire argues that “the subject line of  
19 those emails actually declares that the discussions are protected by ER 408.” ECF  
20 No. 16 at 2. Defendant argues that the statements illustrate Mr. Hunter’s intent to

1 settle the dispute and thus the statements are inadmissible under Fed. R. Evid. 408.  
2 ECF No. 16 at 2.

3 N-CDC, on the other hand, argues that the statements are admissible because  
4 they are used to prove proper venue rather than to show offers to settle. ECF No.  
5 21 at 2. N-CDC seeks to use the e-mails to show that Bessamaire was aware of N-  
6 CDC's intent to file suit in the Eastern District of Washington. ECF No. 21 at 3.

7 The disputed statements appear to be offered to prove liability because the  
8 underlying purpose of the e-mail correspondence was to settle the breach of  
9 contract prior to litigation. In these emails, Mr. Hunter refers to: (1) the amount  
10 for which he is authorized to settle the case; (2) the window of time in which the  
11 offer may be accepted or rejected; and (3) the voice message rejecting the offer.  
12 ECF No. 9 at 9-11. These statements are offers to compromise under Rule 408 and  
13 thus are inadmissible.

14 Further, N-CDC's contention that the statements are used to prove venue is  
15 without merit. ECF No. 21 at 2. Mr. Hunter and Mr. Akrami do not refer to this  
16 District, or any other venue issue for that matter, in any of the disputed statements.  
17 The only reference to this District is Mr. Hunter's mailing address in his e-mail  
18 signature block. ECF No. 9 at 9-11. Therefore, the Court grants Defendant's  
19 motion to strike, ECF No. 15, and will consider these statements inadmissible  
20 under Rule 408(b).

**MOTION TO DISMISS**

Bessamaire filed a motion seeking dismissal based on lack of personal jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(2), and dismissal based on improper venue under Rule 12(b)(3), or, alternatively, change of venue under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a). ECF No. 4.

**Dismissal Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(2)**

“In opposing a defendant’s motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, the plaintiff bears the burden of establishing that jurisdiction is proper.” *Maverix Photo, Inc. v. Branch Techs., Inc.*, 647 F.3d 1218, 1223 (9th Cir. 2011). “Where . . . the defendant’s motion is based on written materials rather than an evidentiary hearing, the plaintiff need only make a *prima facie* showing of jurisdictional facts to withstand the motion to dismiss.” *Id.* “The plaintiff cannot ‘simply rest on the bare allegations of its complaint,’ but uncontested allegations in the complaint must be taken as true.” *Id.* (quoting *Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Motor Co.*, 374 F.3d 797, 800 (9th Cir. 2004)). A court “may not assume the truth of allegations in a pleading which are contradicted by affidavit,” but factual disputes are resolved in the plaintiff’s favor. *Id.*

Where “no federal statute authorizes personal jurisdiction, the district court applies the law of the state in which the court sits.” *Maverix Photo*, 647 F.3d at

1 1223. Washington's long-arm statute provides for personal jurisdiction arising  
2 from "any transaction within the state." RCW 4.28.185(1)(a).

3       Jurisdiction must meet constitutional requirements imposed by due process.  
4 "For a court to exercise personal jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant  
5 consistent with due process, that defendant must have 'certain minimum contacts'  
6 with the relevant forum 'such that maintenance of the suit does not offend  
7 "traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.'"'"' *Maverix Photo*, 647  
8 F.3d at 1223 (quoting *Int'l Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310, 316 (1945)  
9 (quoting *Milliken v. Meyer*, 311 U.S. 457, 463 (1940))).

10       Ultimately, the question is whether this Court has sufficient personal  
11 jurisdiction over Bessamaire in the current Washington action to allow this Court  
12 to preside over N-CDC's claims. *See Mattel, Inc. v. Greiner and Hausser GMBH*,  
13 354 F.3d 857, 862-63 (9th Cir. 2003).

14 General Jurisdiction

15       "‘A court may assert general jurisdiction over foreign . . . corporations to  
16 hear any and all claims against them when their affiliations with the State are so  
17 “continuous and systematic” as to render them essentially at home in the forum  
18 state.’" *Maverix Photo*, 647 F.3d at 1223 (quoting *Goodyear Dunlop Tires  
operations, S.A. v. Brown*, 131 S. Ct. 2846, 2851 (2011)). “For general jurisdiction  
20 to exist, a defendant must engage in ‘continuous and systematic general business

1 contacts.”” *Id.* (quoting *Helicopteros Nationales de Columbia S.A. v. Hall*, 466  
2 U.S. 408, 415 (1984)). “The standard for general jurisdiction is [fairly] high. . . .”  
3 *King v. American Family Mut. Ins. Co.*, 632 F.3d 570, 579 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting  
4 *Tuazon v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, 433 F.3d 1163, 1169 (9th Cir. 2006))  
5 (internal quotations omitted). When determining whether a defendant has  
6 sufficient contacts with the forum, factors such as its “[l]ongevity, continuity,  
7 volume, economic impact, physical presence, and integration into the state's  
8 regulatory or economic markets” should be considered. *CollegeSource, Inc. v.*  
9 *AcademyOne, Inc.*, 653 F.3d 1066, 1074 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Tuazon*, 433 F.3d  
10 at 1172) (internal quotations omitted).

11 Bessamaire argues that this Court lacks general jurisdiction because  
12 Bessamaire is not an entity registered in Washington State, nor does it have a  
13 personal agent in Washington State. ECF No. 16 at 7. Additionally, Bessamaire  
14 asserts that it does not have any “contacts with the state of a sort that would  
15 approximate physical presence.” ECF No. 5 at 7. Further, Bessamaire contends  
16 that it does not “engage in commerce with Washington residents [in] a substantial,  
17 systematic, or continuous nature.” ECF No. 5 at 7.

18 N-CDC argues that this Court has general jurisdiction over Bessamaire  
19 because of its previous contract with a party unrelated to this litigation, McKinstry  
20 Northwest (“McKinstry”). ECF No. 9 at 3-8. Bessamaire’s contract with

1 McKinstry led to litigation in the Northern District of Ohio. ECF No. 9 at 2. N-  
2 CDC asserts that the McKinstry contract is substantial enough for this Court to  
3 exercise general jurisdiction over Bessamaire because actions in that case arose in  
4 Spokane, Washington.<sup>1</sup> ECF No. 9 at 3-4.

5 However, Bessamaire does not have “offices or staff in [Washington], is not  
6 registered to do business in the state, and has no registered agent for service of  
7 process.” *Maverix Photo*, 647 F.3d at 1225; *see* ECF No. 5 at 7. Additionally, one  
8 transaction within the forum does not equate to “continuous and systematic  
9 contacts” availing a defendant of the forum for purposes of general jurisdiction.  
10 *See CollegeSource*, 653 F.3d at 1074 (misappropriation over “a few discrete acts  
11 over a relatively short period of time” did not constitute “continuous and  
12 systematic’ forum activity”); *Int'l Shoe Co.*, 326 U.S. at 317 (“conduct of single or

---

13 <sup>1</sup> N-CDC argued that the instant case should be deferred until the Northern District  
14 of Ohio decided on a motion to transfer venue to the Eastern District of  
15 Washington. N-CDC contended that should the Northern District of Ohio district  
16 court transfer the McKinstry case, then this Court would be an appropriate venue  
17 because Bessamaire would be required to appear in this jurisdiction. ECF No. 9 at  
18 4. However, that case ultimately settled out of court and has been dismissed with  
19 prejudice. *Bessamaire Sales, Inc. v. McKinstry Co., LLC*, Case No. CV-11-2367  
20 (N.D. Ohio filed Feb. 8, 2012) (ECF No. 6 stipulated dismissal entry).

1 isolated items of activities in a state . . . are not enough to subject it to suit on  
2 causes of action unconnected with the activities there"). Further, the act of  
3 maintaining a website alone does not confer general jurisdiction. *Maverix Photo*,  
4 647 F.3d at 1226-27. Thus, Bessamaire's McKinstry contract does not provide this  
5 Court with general jurisdiction over Bessamaire.

6 This Court lacks general jurisdiction over Bessamaire.

7 Specific Jurisdiction

8 In the absence of general jurisdiction, the Court may still adjudicate a case  
9 under specific jurisdiction. Specific jurisdiction is analyzed pursuant to a three-  
10 prong test:

11 (1) The non-resident defendant must purposefully direct his activities  
12 or consummate some transaction with the forum or resident thereof; or  
13 perform some act by which he purposefully avails himself of the  
14 privilege of conducting activities in the forum, thereby invoking the  
15 benefits and protections of its laws; (2) the claim must be one which  
16 arises out of or relates to the defendant's forum-related activities; and  
17 (3) the exercise of jurisdiction must comport with fair play and  
18 substantial justice, i.e. it must be reasonable.

19 *Maverix Photo*, 647 F.3d at 1227-28 (quoting *Schwarzenegger*, 374 F.3d at 802).

20 The Plaintiff bears the burden of establishing the first two prongs. *Id.* at 1228. If  
21 the Plaintiff satisfies the first two prongs, the burden shifts to the Defendant "to set  
22 forth a 'compelling case' that the exercise of jurisdiction would not be reasonable."  
23 *Id.* (quoting *Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz*, 471 U.S. 462, 476-78 (1985)).

1           Purposeful Availment

2           The first prong refers to both “purposeful direction” and “purposeful  
 3 availment.” *Maverix Photo*, 647 F.3d at 1227-28. “As a general rule, the exercise  
 4 of judicial power is not lawful unless the defendant ‘purposefully avails itself of  
 5 the privilege of conducting activities within the forum State, thus invoking the  
 6 benefits and protections of its laws.’” *CollegeSource*, 653 F.3d at 1077 (citing  
 7 *Hanson v. Denckla*, 357 U.S. 235, 253 (1958)).

8           The Ninth Circuit applies different approaches to torts and contract cases.  
 9 *Schwarzenegger*, 374 F.3d at 802-03. In torts cases, the Ninth Circuit considers  
 10 the defendant’s conduct outside of the forum state by asking “whether a defendant  
 11 ‘purposefully direct[s] his activities’ at the forum state” and applying an “effects”  
 12 test. *Maverix Photo*, 647 F.3d at 1227-28 (quoting *Yahoo! Inc. v. La Ligue Contre*  
 13 *Le Racisme et L’Antisemitisme*, 433 F.3d 1199, 1203 (9th Cir. 2006)) (internal  
 14 quotations omitted); *see also Schwarzenegger*, 374 F.3d at 802. In contract cases,  
 15 on the other hand, the Ninth Circuit focuses on the activities of the defendant  
 16 within the forum state and “inquire[s] whether a defendant ‘purposefully avails  
 17 itself of the privilege of conducting activities’ or ‘consummate[s][a] transaction’ in  
 18 the forum.” *Yahoo!*, 433 F.3d at 1203 (citing *Schwarzenegger*, 374 F.3d at 802).  
 19 Therefore, in torts cases, the Ninth Circuit generally utilizes a “purposeful  
 20 direction” test, while the “purposeful availment” standard is typically used in

1 contract cases. *Schwarzenegger*, 374 F.3d at 802-03. Thus, the “purposeful  
2 availment” standard applies here because this is a contracts case.

3 Under the “purposeful availment” test, the court typically looks “to evidence  
4 of the defendant’s actions in the forum, such as executing or performing a contract  
5 there.” *Schwarzenegger*, 374 F.3d at 802. “By taking such actions, a defendant  
6 ‘purposefully avails itself of the privilege of conducting activities within the forum  
7 State, thus invoking the benefits and protections of its laws.’” *Id.* (quoting *Hanson*  
8 *v. Denckla*, 357 U.S. 235, 253 (1958)).

9 Bessamaire had previously availed itself of the forum when it commenced  
10 its contract with McKinstry. However, that contract is not at issue in this case. At  
11 no moment in the formation or performance of the contract between N-CDC and  
12 Bessamaire did any action occur in Washington. ECF No. 5 at 8. Neither party  
13 regularly conducts business in Washington. ECF No. 13 at 4; ECF No. 16 at 7.  
14 Neither party has an agent within Washington State. ECF No. 13 at 4; ECF No. 16  
15 at 7.

16 The contract between N-CDC and Bessamaire did not arise from “any  
17 transaction within the state.” RCW 4.28.185(1)(c). The contract was formed  
18 outside of Washington State. ECF No. 5 at 8. The performance of the contract  
19 was to take place in Afghanistan. ECF No. 8 at 4. None of the negotiations  
20 occurred in this forum. The only link to this forum is Mr. Hunter’s practice and

1 residence in Spokane. ECF No. 10 at 2. Therefore, there is not a sufficient basis to  
2 find purposeful availment.

3 Relationship Between Claim and the Forum-Related Activities

4 The second prong “asks whether the claim arises out of or results from the  
5 Defendants’ forum-related activities. [The Ninth Circuit] use[s] a ‘but for’ test to  
6 conduct this analysis.” *Mattel*, 354 F.3d at 864 (citing *Harris Rutsky & Co. Ins.*  
7 *Serv., Inc. v. Bell & Clements Ltd*, 328 F.3d 1122, 1131-32 (9th Cir. 2003)). In  
8 *Mattel*, the “but for” question posed was “But for G&H’s contacts with California  
9 would Mattel’s claims against G&H have arisen?” *Id.*

10 In this case, the “but for” test can be phrased as: “But for Bessamaire’s  
11 contacts with Washington, would N-CDC’s claims against Bessamaire have  
12 arisen?” The Court finds that, indeed, N-CDC could have asserted the same claims  
13 against Bessamaire even if Bessamaire did not contract with McKinstry. N-CDC’s  
14 alleged claim does not rely on a contract and breach occurring in Washington. The  
15 contract was formed outside of Washington State. ECF No. 5 at 8. The  
16 performance of the contract was to take place in Afghanistan. ECF No. 8 at 4.  
17 Thus, the claim does not have any forum-related activities, and this prong is not  
18 satisfied.

19 ///

20 ///

1       Reasonableness

2       The third and final prong asks whether the forum is reasonable. *Mattel*, 354  
3 F.3d at 866. There are seven factors that should be considered when determining  
4 the reasonableness element of personal jurisdiction:

5       (1) the extent of the defendants' purposeful interjection into the forum  
6 state's affairs; (2) the burden on the defendant of defending in the  
7 forum; (3) the extent of conflict with the sovereignty of the  
defendants' state; (4) the forum state's interest in adjudicating the  
dispute; (5) the most efficient judicial resolution of the controversy;  
6 (6) the importance of the forum to the plaintiff's interest in convenient  
7 and effective relief; and (7) the existence of an alternative forum.

9       *Mattel*, 354 F.3d at 866-67 (citing *Harris Rutsky*, 328 F.3d at 1132). Each factor  
10 should be balanced and no one factor is dispositive. *Id.*

11       1.       *Defendant's interjection into Washington*

12       Bessamaire contracted in Washington State with McKinstry in 2010.  
13       However, that contract is completely unrelated to this suit. Therefore, this factor  
14 does not support the conclusion that jurisdiction is reasonable in this forum.

15       2.       *The burden of defending in Washington*

16       Bessamaire is an Ohio Limited Liability Company. Before the Court is  
17 evidence of only one contract in Washington State in an unrelated matter,  
18 McKinstry. Bessamaire does not have any representatives in Washington. ECF  
19 No. 6 at 9. No events relating to the underlying action occurred in Washington.  
20 ECF No. 5 at 8; ECF No. 8 at 4. As such, Bessamaire's burden of defending this

1 claim in Washington is great, making it unreasonable for this Court to retain  
2 jurisdiction.

3       3.     *Conflict with the sovereignty of the Defendant's state*

4       When exercising personal jurisdiction over a citizen of a foreign sovereign  
5 nation, greater caution should be taken, as compared to litigation between citizens  
6 of sister states in the U.S., because "important sovereignty concerns exist."

7       *Sinatra v. National Enquirer, Inc.*, 854 F.2d 1191, 1199 (9th Cir. 1988); *see also*  
8       *Yahoo!*, 379 F.3d at 1137.

9       For example, in *Mattel*, 354 F.3d at 867, the Ninth Circuit was concerned  
10      that the decision to exercise jurisdiction might offend German sovereignty. The  
11      plaintiff in that matter was a U.S. toy manufacturer, while the defendant was a  
12      German toy manufacturer. *Id.* at 859. In deciding the conflict with sovereignty  
13      factor, the Ninth Circuit considered possible interference with pending German  
14      lawsuits related to the matter and did not want to "undermine the integrity of the  
15      German courts." *Id.*

16       In this matter, Plaintiff N-CDC is a foreign citizen as it is an Afghan joint  
17      venture company, while the Defendant Bessamaire is an Ohio limited liability  
18      company. Thus, Bessamaire is not a foreign defendant for purposes of this factor,  
19      and this factor does not make Washington any more or less reasonable as a forum.

20      ///

1       4. *Washington's interest in adjudicating the dispute*

2           The underlying contract in this case did not commence in Washington.

3       Performance under the contract was not to take place in Washington. ECF No. 8 at

4       4. Rather, performance was to take place in Afghanistan. ECF No. 8 at 4. Neither

5       party resides nor has a principal place of business in Washington. ECF No. 13 at

6       4; ECF No. 16 at 7. Therefore, Washington State has no interest in adjudicating

7       this dispute and this factor does not support the conclusion that jurisdiction is

8       reasonable in this forum.

9       5. *The most efficient judicial resolution*

10       The most efficient judicial resolution is typically analyzed by comparing

11       alternative forums. *Bauman v. DaimlerChrysler Corp.*, 644 F.3d 909, 927-28 (9th

12       Cir. 2011). In so comparing, the Ninth Circuit looks to “where the witnesses and

13       evidence are located in order to determine the most efficient forum.” *Id.* (citing14       *Core-Vent Corp. v. Nobel Industries AB*, 11F.3d 1482, 1489 (9th Cir. 1993)).

15       Here, that forum is not the Eastern District of Washington, but rather most

16       likely the Northern District of Ohio. The witnesses likely to be called to testify in

17       this case would most likely reside in Ohio. ECF No. 5 at 10-11. Also, any files

18       that may be produced as evidence would be contained in Ohio, according to the

19       address provided by Bessamaire on its invoices to N-CDC. ECF No. 8 at 11, 13, &amp;

20       15. Therefore, this factor weighs against the reasonableness of this forum.

1       6.     *The importance of the forum to N-CDC's interests*

2       N-CDC appears to have retained counsel and filed suit in the Eastern District  
3     of Washington due to the possibility that the McKinstry case would be transferred  
4     to this forum. ECF No. 12 at 2. However, since the instant suit commenced, the  
5     McKinstry case has settled and has been dismissed with prejudice.<sup>2</sup> Outside of the  
6     fact that N-CDC's retained counsel is in Spokane, N-CDC does not have any ties  
7     to the state of Washington, let alone the Eastern District of Washington. Because  
8     N-CDC does not reside or have a place of business in the Eastern District of  
9     Washington, ECF No. 13 at 4, this forum is an unreasonable venue.

10       7.     *The existence of an alternative forum*

11       Bessamaire proposed transferring this case to the Northern District of Ohio  
12     as an alternative to dismissal for the case. The Northern District of Ohio would  
13     serve as a better forum for this action because it would be more convenient for the  
14     parties and all possible witnesses. ECF No. 5 at 10-11. Ohio would have more  
15     interest in this case than Washington because Bessamaire is a registered limited  
16     liability company of Ohio. Further, any records relating to this contract would  
17     likely be stored in Ohio, as evidenced by the address provided on Bessamaire's

18  
19       

---

<sup>2</sup> *Bessamaire Sales, Inc. v. McKinstry Co., LLC*, Case No. CV-11-2367 (N. D.  
20     Ohio filed Feb. 8, 2012) (ECF No. 6 stipulated dismissal entry).

1 receipts to N-CDC's payments. ECF No. 8 at 11, 13, & 15. The Court notes,  
2 without deciding the change of venue issue, that these factors support the Northern  
3 District of Ohio as being a more reasonable forum for this action than the Eastern  
4 District of Washington.

5 In totality, these seven factors weigh heavily against this Court's exercising  
6 specific jurisdiction over Bessamaire. Further, it is even less reasonable to "hale  
7 two [entities] with no contacts or *de minimis* contacts into a forum, regardless of  
8 who their counsel may be." *Pacific Life Insurance Company v. Spurgeon*, 319  
9 F.Supp.2d 1108, 1115 (C.D. Cal. 2004) (citing *Mattel*, 354 F.3d at 867).

10 Thus, after accounting for general jurisdiction and the three prongs of  
11 specific jurisdiction, the Court finds that it does not have personal jurisdiction over  
12 Bessamaire.

13 Having concluded that this Court does not have personal jurisdiction over  
14 this case, the Court declines to address the change of venue motion and dismisses  
15 this case without prejudice.

16 Accordingly,

17 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

18 1. Defendant's Motion to Strike Portions of Plaintiff's Brief and  
19 Declaration for Violations of Federal Rule of Evidence 408, ECF No.  
20 **15, is GRANTED.**

2. Defendant's Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction, ECF No. 4,

is GRANTED.

3. This matter is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

The District Court Executive is directed to enter this Order, provide copies to counsel, enter Judgment, and **close the file** in this case.

**DATED** this 2nd day of May 2012.

*s/ Rosanna Malouf Peterson*

## ROSANNA MALOUF PETERSON

## Chief United States District Court Judge

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO STRIKE AND MOTION  
TO DISMISS ~ 19